

Ashburnham 250th Celebration Committee Meeting, September 8, 2015

Present:

Steve Coswell and George Cornwall, Co-Chairmen; Pat Frederick, Secretary; Patty Johnson, Treasurer, Members: Susie Brennan, Barbara DiVito, Tyna Donelson, and Bob Fichtel.

Steve called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

The secretary's minutes for the August 18th and September 1st meetings were accepted, with a minor change to the latter. (There was no advance posting of a meeting on August 25th, therefore no meeting could take place legally; approval of minutes of the previous meeting was thereby delayed.)

Steve called the meeting to order at 7:04.

Parade Plans

Patty reported that two more bands have been added to the parade: "The Meadowlarks" have both a marching band and a Dixieland band. The Hoffman Fund is sufficient to cover both bands' \$2,800 fee. The Leominster bagpipe band will not be participating.

Also added to the parade is a bicycling group, The Wheelmen.

Invoices from parade participants must be received by Monday the 14th.

Members of Oakmont's National Honor Society were assigned by name to march at the heads of divisions, carrying the banners honoring major parade sponsors.

Ashburnham's VFW members will be marching.

The committee reviewed the order of parade participants in each division, arranging the color-coded tags on the whiteboard.

J.R. Briggs School is not going to have a float, but will be represented by marchers including teachers, students, and the marching band.

The Lions Club will be represented by a decorated pickup truck and the Sightmobile.

George will see if we can get the Army to loan a "deuce and a half" (M35 2½ ton cargo truck) to carry the American Legion Women's Auxiliary.

The current Miss Massachusetts, Megan Fuller, has her own magnetic car door signs.

Steve, George and any other available committee members will meet with Police Chief Barrett on Thursday at 9:00 AM to discuss matters such as road closings and personnel.

Golf carts will be used to carry drinking water to participants.

Steve mailed letters to abutters today, apprising them of the parade route and schedule, road closings, etc.

A tentative plan was drawn up for staging the five divisions, pending permission from Cushing Academy to use of the upper driveway and parking area of Iorio Arena:

Divisions I and III, Iorio Arena driveway and parking area

Division II, High Street. The horses need to be on grass while waiting. Maybe they could be at the site of the old water tank.

Divisions IV and V, Old Nims Road, into the cemetery.

Barb recommended that arrivals be staggered, some reporting at 11:00. others at 11:30, rather than all participants arriving at once.

Division coordinators were appointed:

I Barb

II Patty

III Bob

IV Susie

V George

The Navy band has twenty-eight members. Pat will host their luncheon at the church and will supervise their positioning.

Barb will draft a letter to be e-mailed to participants, telling them where and at what time to report. Individuals with cars will go first to Briggs, leave their cars there, and be transported by shuttle buses to their respective staging areas. We will need "Participant Parking Only" signs. Persons with large items such as bicycles should leave them at the staging area, where security will be provided, then drop off their cars at Briggs. The letter will include driving directions: people entering the town from the southwest via Route 101 will be told to turn up Corey Hill Road and turn right at the blinking yellow light at the junction with Route 12.

Groups such as bands arriving by bus will be dropped off at their staging areas. Buses will wait at the end-point of the parade, Landry Field.

Each division coordinator will send M.C. Dave Uminski the order and brief description of participants in their division, so he can announce them from the reviewing stand.

Tyna proposed that we hire a professional photographer to take pictures of the parade.

Oktoberfest Plans

Music will be provided by Gibby Lashua from 6:00 to 7:30, followed by Andrew Fichtel's five-man band, for the rest of the evening. Payment for the musicians was decided upon.

Positive identification will be required of anyone purchasing a beer; identified customers will receive wrist bands. There will be a beer tent and a seating tent. Ten round, six-foot diameter tables and eighty chairs will be rented. There should also be bales of hay to sit on. Drinkers must stay under the tent. There will be bouncers.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia H. Frederick

Patricia H. Frederick, Secretary